

# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

March 2014



## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

### Turn Around, Don't Drown!

March 16-22 was Flood Safety Awareness Week. Remind loved ones never to drive through flood waters. Flood waters can be deeper than they seem and you may lose control of your car or truck. Learn more about staying safe during floods at [www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/](http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/).

Red Cross -- flood safety checklist

[http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA\\_CustomProductCatalog/m4340128\\_Flood.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4340128_Flood.pdf)



### Flood Insurance 101

Taking action to prepare for flood hazards is important no matter where you live but especially if you are in low-lying areas or near water. Since floods are one of the most common hazards in the U.S., preparing for this hazard is critical. One way to prepare is with flood insurance. Keep your head above water by learning the basics about this special coverage available for homes and businesses. Here's what you should know:

- Flood losses are not typically covered under renter and homeowner's insurance policies.
- Flood insurance is available in most communities through insurance agents.
- There is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance goes into effect.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) – [www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/](http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/) – is a valuable resource to learn more about your flood risk, how to find an agent and the flood recovery process. NFIP also offers interactive ways to understand floods. Calculate the cost of flooding, watch real flood testimonials and launch a levee simulator to take your flood knowledge to the next level.

*Reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief," March 21 edition*

### Changes Come to Flood Insurance

President Obama signed the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 on March 21. The new law repeals the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. With the goals of helping families afford flood insurance and also ensuring the financial stability of the National Flood Insurance Program, FEMA will be working to implement the changes and to update informational materials about the new law. Check [www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-reform](http://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-reform) for updates as they are available.

*Reprinted from the EM Update, March 25 edition, from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management*

### More than 1.2 Million Virginians Participated in Statewide Tornado Drill

For the third consecutive year, more than 1.2 million Virginians registered for the annual statewide tornado drill, held March 11 at 9:45 a.m. Governor McAuliffe proclaimed the day Virginia Tornado Preparedness Day as schools, hospitals and individual families participated along with government offices to practice tornado safety. The drill urged participants to locate a "safe area" in the lowest level of a building, away from windows, and keep heads covered until the drill was over. "We've been doing this for three years now, and a third of the million [participants] are for the first time," said Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran. Secretary Moran was present along with Virginia Department of Emergency Management staff for the tornado drill at Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center in Chesterfield County. Participant data showed that schools and private homes were the leading groups of participants in the drill, and the **top localities with highest participation were Fairfax County, Loudon County, Henrico County, Chesapeake City and Richmond City respectively.**

### Keep Your Pets Safe

Hurricane and flooding season is coming ... you've probably stock up on bottled water and extra packaged food, just in case. You've got a flashlight and plenty of batteries. Your battery-powered/hand-crank radio is standing by so you

can get local emergency information if the power goes out. But what about your pet? Pets can't take care of themselves. During major disasters, pets often become separated from their owners. Avoid that heartbreak by making an emergency plan for your pet.

- Prepare a pet disaster supply kit. Include at least three day's food and water; food and water bowls; an extra leash and collar with identification tag; a few days' worth of medication; current photos of you with your pet; blankets or towels for bedding and warmth; cat litter/pan; your vet's name and phone number; treats. Store items in a sturdy container that can be carried easily.
- Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars and up-to-date identification tags. Consider permanent identification for your pet such as a microchip or tattoo.
- Purchase a pet carrier and label it with emergency contact information.
- Don't leave your pet behind. If you have to evacuate, where will you go that accepts pets? Ask friends or relatives outside your area whether they could shelter you and your pet in an emergency. Find a hotel or motel outside your area that accepts pets.

For more about making an emergency plan for your pet, go to [www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/getakit/pets](http://www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/getakit/pets).



#### **Celebrate Partnerships Award 2014**

The Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3) and the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) are seeking nominations from Fairfax County agencies and affiliates for the "4th Annual Celebrate Partnerships" awards which honor those individuals, organizations and companies that have contributed their time, talent and resources in partnership with the Fairfax County and FCPS to improve the lives of people in their communities. Nominations are due April 4 and can be completed via an online form. The announcement of the honorees will take place at a ceremony at the Mason Inn and Conference Center May 29 at 3 p.m. The event is expected to draw nearly 400 people and will feature remarks by Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova; FCPS Board Chair Ilryong Moon; Fairfax County Executive Ed Long; and FCPS Superintendent Karen Garza. Awards:

- Small Business Resource Champion – This is for a for-profit business (<100 employees) whose financial, pro-bono and/or in-kind contributions have made significant positive impact to a county program, agency or public-private partnership that addresses an identified priority.
- Large Business Resource Champion – This is for a for-profit business (100+ employees) whose financial, pro-bono and/or in-kind contributions have made a significant impact to a county program, agency or public-private partnership that addresses an identified priority.
- Community Resource Connector – This is for a chamber of commerce, civic, service or nonprofit organization whose financial, pro-bono and/or in-kind contributions have made a significant impact to a county program, initiative or public-private partnership that addresses an identified priority.
- Media/Communications Partner – This award recognizes significant contributions through print, broadcast, or social media to raise awareness of the contributions of county agencies/programs and schools resulting in increased engagement to address their needs.
- Blue Ribbon Partnership – This award recognizes an established partnership that demonstrates the value of the public and private sector working together through sustained collaboration resulting in new resources and significant outcomes that improve the quality of life in Fairfax County. The partnership must include one or more Fairfax County agencies or departments.
- Anthony H. Griffin Partnership Leader Award -- This award is for an individual who exemplifies leadership in the partnership arena. Nominees can be a government, corporate or nonprofit leader in Fairfax County

with demonstrated success in establishing and maintaining one or more partnerships that support the work of Fairfax County. The Partnership Leader Award will only be presented when the selection panel identifies an outstanding candidate who provided leadership to:

- Establish and maintain one or more successful partnerships
- Engage partners in developing solutions and recognize their contributions
- Leverage new resources to address community needs as a result of partnerships

Nominations are submitted online (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opinio/s?s=4752>) and are due April 4. For questions, contact [partnerships@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:partnerships@fairfaxcounty.gov).



[www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov](http://www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov)

### **Virginia's Search and Rescue Program**

The Commonwealth of Virginia Search and Rescue (COVSAR) is a branch of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and includes 22 professionally trained volunteer search and rescue teams throughout the Commonwealth, with approximately 700 personnel available for search operations. What is the best part of these groups? They are available for search incidents throughout Virginia at no expense to the responsible agency. Visit the Virginia Search and Rescue Council website at <http://vasar.bdsarco.org/> to learn more about the program.

<https://vasheriff.org/2013/12/05/commonwealth-virginia-search-rescue-program-covsar-valuable-cost-resource-next-search-incident/>

### **Federal Committee Releases Strategic Plan to Support Emergency Medical Services Nationwide**

The Federal Interagency Committee on EMS (FICEMS) has reached consensus on a strategic plan that maps action steps for federal support of optimal emergency medical services (EMS) systems nationwide. The five-year plan provides a framework to synchronize interagency efforts and strengthen EMS practices, principles and strategies throughout the United States. Download the FICEMS Strategic Plan from the EMS.gov website at

[www.ems.gov/ficems/plan.htm](http://www.ems.gov/ficems/plan.htm).

### **Honoring a Preparedness Hero Through a Fellowship**

The John D. Solomon Fellowship for Public Service is the first fellowship in New York City government devoted to emergency management. This nine-month paid fellowship will allow nine graduate students (up from six last year), to be mentored by senior staff at various New York city government agencies, including the NY Office of Emergency Management and the American Red Cross in Greater NY. The program was established by family and friends of the late John D. Solomon, an accomplished journalist on homeland security and a devoted public servant. He was an active member of his local NYC Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). In addition, in 2012, to recognize his contributions to emergency preparedness, FEMA established the national John D. Solomon Preparedness Award. Interested in applying? Applications and resumes must be received by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Monday, April 7, 2014. Completed applications include both a Web application and a resume. Only completed applications will be reviewed. To learn more about the application process and eligibility criteria, visit the John D. Solomon Fellowship Program webpage ([http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/about/applying\\_johndsolomonfellowship.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/about/applying_johndsolomonfellowship.shtml)). Applications can be found on the application website (<https://www.research.net/s/JDSFellowshipApplication>) and resumes must be emailed to [JDSolomonFellowship@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:JDSolomonFellowship@oem.nyc.gov).

## PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

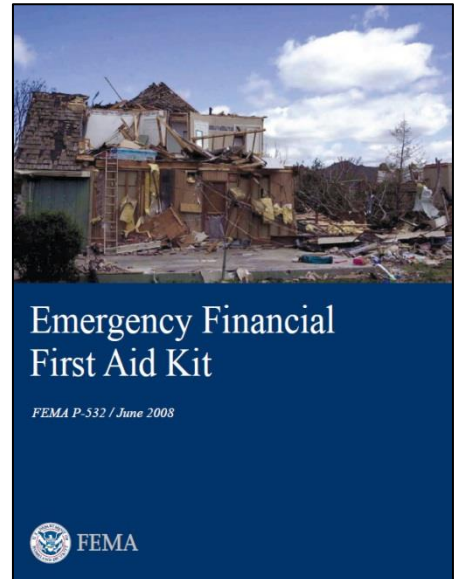
### Disaster Ready Finances

Being ready for severe weather is more than storing water and supplies. You also need to be financially ready. Starting early and having a plan to pay your bills and access your important records and accounts help you get back on your feet faster and avoid problems with your credit when you need it most. These steps can you get started:

- Identify your important documents and place them in a safe space. Use the “Safeguarding Your Valuables” (PDF) activity ([http://emilms.fema.gov/IS909/assets/11\\_SafeguardingValuables.pdf](http://emilms.fema.gov/IS909/assets/11_SafeguardingValuables.pdf)) and the “Emergency Financial First Aid Kit” ([www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1858-25045-8753/p\\_532.pdf\\_1.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1858-25045-8753/p_532.pdf_1.pdf)) as a guide.
- Download phone applications that can help during emergencies. Use the FEMA phone application ([www.fema.gov/mobile-resources](http://www.fema.gov/mobile-resources)) to access to disaster preparedness, response and recovery resources including disaster assistance.
- Enroll in Go Direct ([www.godirect.org](http://www.godirect.org)) to minimize disruptions to receiving any federal benefits you may receive.
- Plan ahead of time to recover. Our partners at USDA have created great resources to help get you started including “Recovery After Disaster: The Family Financial Toolkit” ([www.extension.umn.edu/family/tough-times/disaster-recovery/family-financial-toolkit](http://www.extension.umn.edu/family/tough-times/disaster-recovery/family-financial-toolkit)) and the Disaster Recovery Log ([www.ag.ndsu.edu/extension/apps/disaster-recovery-log](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/extension/apps/disaster-recovery-log)).

Pre-disaster financial planning is essential for individuals and families to complete because disasters leave many Americans without access to finances or with expensive damages. Safeguarding your finances and important records is easy if you start today.

*Reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief," Feb. 27 edition*



### Meet the Queen of Preparedness

*Cheryl Nelson, Mrs. Virginia International 2014*

“As a young girl, I remember watching my parents board up the windows in our Connecticut home in preparation for Hurricane Gloria that hit New England in September 1985. I've had a passion for weather and preparedness since I was a child and by the age of nine, I knew I was going to be a meteorologist. Now, with over a decade of experience as a broadcast meteorologist, I truly understand Mother Nature's fury. I will never forget the weather events that unfolded on April 28, 2008 while WAVY-TV Chief Meteorologist Don Slater and I were on the air for over five straight hours. It was during this time that a strong EF3 tornado tore through Suffolk, Va. leveling homes to their foundations. EF3 tornadoes are extremely rare in Hampton Roads, Va. This event was a wake-up call for me and ignited my passion for natural disaster preparedness. I was crowned Mrs. Virginia International 2014 last autumn with my chosen platform, Natural Disaster Preparedness.”

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSRC/bulletins/a89381>

### National Terrorism Advisory System

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) is a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public about credible terrorist threats and replaces the former color-coded alert system. Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the public when the federal government receives information about a credible terrorist threat. NTAS alerts provide a concise summary of the potential threat including geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat, actions being taken to ensure public safety, as well as recommended steps that individuals, communities, business and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to a threat. NTAS Alerts will include a clear statement on the nature of the threat, which will be defined in one of two ways:

The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is designed to provide information about Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) along with news articles and informational updates relating to Homeland Security and emergency management to ESF 15 partners. Inclusion of any resource, information or Web link is not an endorsement of the product, service or organization. The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is produced by Fairfax County's Office of Public Affairs – the lead agency for ESF 15.



- “Elevated Threat”: Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States.
- “Imminent Threat”: Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.

Depending on the nature of the threat, alerts may be sent to law enforcement, distributed to affected areas of the private sector, or issued more broadly to the public through both official and social media channels – including a designated DHS webpage ([www.dhs.gov/alerts](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts)), Facebook and via Twitter @NTASAlerts. NTAS alerts and posters will also be displayed in places such as transit hubs, airports and government buildings. NTAS threat alerts will be issued for a specific time period and will automatically expire. Alerts may be extended if new information becomes available or as a specific threat evolves. For more information on the National Terrorism Advisory System or to receive NTAS alerts, visit [www.dhs.gov/alerts](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts).

### **How Elected Officials Can Prepare for, Respond to Emergencies**

There is a phrase among emergency managers, “It is not a matter of if but when disaster happens. Are you prepared?” No one wakes up and says today there is going to be a disaster. In fact, disasters are unexpected; they overwhelm first responders; and lives, health and the environment are often endangered. At a very minimum, emergencies and disasters are disruptive and often occur at the most inopportune times. Therefore, we need to foster an attitude of both personal and community preparedness. Elected officials set the tone and direction in the community for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities. They do so by providing policy, mission, direction and authority. Actions taken during an incident can either help or hinder the desired outcome. Therefore, it is important that elected officials understand what their role is prior to a disaster.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/training/Elected-Officials-Prepare-Respond-Emergencies.html>

### **America’s PrepareAthon!**

In support of Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-8), National Preparedness, America’s PrepareAthon! is launching its first national day of action this year on April 30. Targeting the grassroots level, America’s PrepareAthon! is a nationwide campaign to encourage the public to practice specific preparedness actions. Communities are better prepared to withstand an emergency and recover more quickly if everyone is involved. Events and activities will be held twice yearly to encourage individuals to discuss, practice and train for relevant hazards. The focus of the first national day of action will be on preparedness for four specific hazards – tornadoes hurricanes, floods and wildfires. Learn more at [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare).

### **FEMA Plans to Stick with Ad Council for Emergency Preparedness PSAs**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency intends to maintain its relationship with the Ad Council for work on the Ready emergency preparedness PSA campaign, it said in solicitation documents. The federal agency said it “intends to negotiate on a sole-source basis with the Ad Council,” and that it “determined that the [group] is uniquely qualified to perform this work.” The Ad Council is currently working with FEMA on the Ready PSA campaign, said Lisa Cullen, VP of PR and social media at the organization.

<http://www.prweekus.com/article/fema-plans-stick-ad-council-emergency-preparedness-psas/1284455>

### **Cybersecurity Concerns Becoming a Boardroom Issue**

The increasing frequency, sophistication, and business impact of cyber-attacks have pushed cybersecurity planning and protection from an operational concern of IT departments to a key theme on the strategic agenda of boards and CEOs. Senior levels of the business still face an information gap that makes it difficult for them to align investments in risk protection to the true strategic value of an organization's digital assets; this, according to a report by global business consulting firm Bain & Company. Every organization that has suffered a recent security breach, the report notes, has also already had some form of cybersecurity in place. Beyond that, too many organizations fail to align IT security capabilities with larger goals and overall risk appetite.

<http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=16482>

### **Spring the Alarm**

You changed your clocks for Daylight Saving Time, but what about your smoke alarm? As you prepare to spring forward, don’t forget to “spring” the alarm by replacing its batteries. Smoke alarm batteries should be changed at least once a year to make sure it operates properly when you need it the most. When fire breaks out, you only have

seconds to escape its heat, black smoke and deadly gases. Increase your chances of survival by maintaining the smoke alarms in your home. Here are more tips for making your home safer:

- Place a smoke alarm on every level of your home and outside each bedroom. If you keep your bedroom doors closed, place a smoke alarm in each bedroom;
- Check smoke alarms monthly by pushing the test button.
- Never disable a smoke alarm when cooking.
- Smoke alarms wear out over time. Replace yours if it's more than ten years old.

*Reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief," March 13 edition*

### **Report Finds Many Older Americans Ill-Prepared for Disasters**

Older Americans are more vulnerable when natural disasters strike, yet most of them are not adequately prepared for serious floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires or other calamities. Those are among the findings researchers with the University of Iowa College of Public Health recently published online in the American Journal of Public Health. Of the 1,304 adults interviewed, about one-third said they had read information or participated in an educational program on how to prepare for a disaster, according to University News Services. Fewer than 25 percent reported having an emergency plan in place, even though a quarter of them said they lived alone and one-third reported being disabled or in fair to poor health, according to the study. About half of the adults who responded to the survey said they would not know where to seek shelter if they were forced to evacuate their home. And about a quarter said they didn't have access to transportation during emergencies, according to UI news. About 15 percent said they used an electric medical device that could fail during power outages, and low-income respondents were more likely to report not being prepared.

<http://www.emsworld.com/news/11361235/report-finds-many-older-americans-ill-prepared-for-disasters>

### **Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)**

Get emergency alerts by email, as well as by text or pager. Sign up at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean). Businesses can also register up to five people in their organizations – such as security officers – who can receive alerts and then share that information with their workforce.



## **MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

### **Sandy Hook Woes Included Too Many Ambulances**

Speaking to the Connecticut governor's Sandy Hook Advisory Commission, the police chief of Newtown said Feb. 28 that the town's emergency dispatchers were overwhelmed by ambulances from around the region immediately following the December 2012 school shooting. Others involved in the incident command structure that day said that better coordination of ambulances and other trauma services, as well as media and concerned parents, would have smoothed the early stages of the response. They recommended the community identify a person who could serve as a coordinator of regional trauma resources in the event of a future large-scale disaster

<http://www.emsworld.com/news/11321507/sandy-hook-woes-included-too-many-ambulances>



### **Determining Long-term Effects of West Virginia Chemical Spill**

A chemical mixture called crude 4-methylcyclohexane methanol (MCHM) is used during the separation and cleaning of coal products. More than 10,000 gallons of the chemical leaked from a storage tank near Charleston, West Virginia, and entered the river upstream of a water-treatment plant on 9 January. The drinking water of more than 300,000 West Virginians was contaminated. Water restrictions began to be lifted on Jan. 13, but residents are still detecting the telltale odors of MCHM. Virginia Tech faculty engineers and students are unravelling fundamental chemical and health properties of MCHM.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140311-determining-longterm-effects-of-west-virginia-chemical-spill>

### **HHS Wants to Mine Social Media During Health Emergencies**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is considering purchasing a tool that could be used to mine social media to help identify public health threats following health emergencies such as natural disasters and terrorist attacks. HHS is currently assessing the quality of available technology, asking prospective vendors to show how their tools could have alerted officials to the hospitals that were evacuating during Hurricane Sandy, or how they could identify news of outbreaks of viruses like avian influenza. The tool would be used to complement HHS' traditional data analysis methods

<http://www.nextgov.com/emerging-tech/emerging-tech-blog/2014/02/hhs-wants-mine-social-media-during-health-emergencies/79217/>

### **Nonprofits Don't Plan for When Disaster Strikes Them**

Nonprofits proved in Colorado's most recent disasters that they're becoming more adept at responding to community crises. But when disaster strikes a nonprofit — not just the community it serves — the tables can turn for the worst. Around 80 percent of businesses, including nonprofits, that are not up and running within a month of an emergency situation fail, according to the American Red Cross.

<http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20140309/NEWS01/303090085/Nonprofits-don-t-plan-when-disaster-strikes-them>

### **Examining Fire Safety Concerns Raised by Green Buildings**

In 2012, the "Fire Safety Challenges of Green Buildings" report assembled a list of seventy-eight green building features and construction elements that could have implications for fire safety. The authors then derived a list of potential hazards associated with the features and elements, including greater flammability, faster burn rate, and increased hindrance to firefighters, as compared with conventional construction. A 3-year project, funded with a \$1 million grant from DHS, will enable the further exploration of some of the potential risks and hazards identified in the 2012 report.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140311-examining-fire-safety-concerns-raised-by-green-buildings>

### **U.S. Calls on Hospitals to Hone Disaster Plans**

Federal officials are proposing sweeping new requirements for American health care facilities – from large hospitals to small group homes for the mentally disabled – intended to ensure their readiness to care for patients during disasters.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/12/us/us-citing-urgent-need-calls-on-hospitals-to-improve-disaster-plans.html>

### **Study Says Enhanced Airport Security May Waste Money**

Months after an airport screener was killed in a shooting rampage at Los Angeles International Airport, a new report concludes that adding more security measures at the nation's airports may not be worth the cost. The study goes on to suggest that it might even make sense to relax some of the existing security tactics. "It may be time to reduce security," said John Mueller, a professor of political science at Ohio State University who wrote the report with Mark G. Stewart, a civil engineering professor at the University of Newcastle in Australia. Mueller and Stewart conclude that airports are not good targets for terrorists and that the odds of being killed in an airport attack are extremely long. Their study, titled "Cost-benefit analysis of airport security: Are airports too safe?" appeared in the March edition of

### **Zombie Survival Kit Works for Real-life Emergencies**

It's a reminder we've heard before, but may be ignoring -- we need to be prepared for the next big earthquake. A local family has put together an emergency kit that has the hit show "The Walking Dead" taking notice. The kit is designed to help you survive any disaster. Purchases also help support developmentally disabled employees who, thanks to a local nonprofit and a Bay Area company, have jobs. Whether you're trying to survive zombies or a major earthquake, you'll want to have an emergency preparedness kit on hand. Because when power is out, transportation is grounded to a halt and food is hard to come by, the disaster kit you buy today may be your best chance for survival.

[http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/7\\_on\\_your\\_side&id=9473358](http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/7_on_your_side&id=9473358)

### **Study Says Assaults at Schools Send 90,000 Kids to ER Each Year**

Children and teenagers who are assaulted at school account for nearly 90,000 emergency-room visits in the United States each year, new research finds. Although school shootings garner much attention, it was rare for kids aged 5 to 19 to be injured by guns on campus, according to the study. Forty percent of injuries were bruises and scratches, and few injuries overall required hospitalization after a trip to the ER. "[The number of injuries] appears to be concerningly high, especially when you realize that such a substantial number of injuries are occurring in the school setting, where safety measures are already in place," said study lead author Dr. Siraj Amanullah, an assistant professor of emergency medicine and pediatrics at Brown University's Alpert Medical School.

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_144001.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_144001.html)

### **HHS Proposes Rules to Govern Health-care Facilities' Disaster Preparedness**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), a federal agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, has proposed new requirements for health-care facilities intended to ensure these facilities are prepared to care for patients during disasters. The regulations aim to prevent the service disruptions which occurred during Hurricane Sandy and Hurricane Katrina, when an estimated 215 deaths occurred in hospitals and nursing homes in Louisiana. "In New Orleans it seems very likely that dozens of lives could have been saved by competent emergency planning and execution," the proposed rule said. The proposal which will impact more than 68,000 institutions, was issued on 27 December 2013, and is open for comment until the end of March 2013. The New York Times reports that in response to the proposal, the American Hospital Association, in an advisory to its members, said that federal officials "may have significantly underestimated the burden and cost associated with complying with this rule." The proposal requires that all nursing facilities and group homes have plans to maintain emergency lighting, fire safety systems, sewage/waste disposal options, and temperatures at a safe level for patients during power losses. Inpatient facilities must be capable of tracking displaced patients, provide care at alternate sites, and handle volunteers during disasters. Transplant centers would need to have alternative hospitals for patients awaiting organs, which the Times notes is a challenge because transplant centers maintain different criteria.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140321-hhs-proposes-rules-to-govern-healthcare-facilities-disaster-preparedness>

### **Universities Struggle to Balance Cybersecurity, Openness**

Since January 2013, more than fifty academic institutions across the country have been targets of cyberattacks, which have compromised personal information, according to the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, a California-based consumer-advocacy group. Last year, a cyberattack on the Arizona school district, which has about 265,000 students enrolled in courses annually in ten community colleges, could have compromised 2.5 million Social Security and banks account numbers belonging to students, former students, and employees. The Baltimore Sun reports that colleges and universities can be easy targets for hackers because they offer many access points into their networks. Unlike other organizations, universities cannot mandate what devices are used to access their networks, and they must accommodate faculty, students, and researchers spread across the globe. Academic network systems are attractive to hackers because they contain valuable intellectual property. The vulnerability campus networks and the growing threat have led many institutions to rethink their information sharing practices.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140319-universities-struggle-to-balance-cybersecurity-openness>



### **Virginia Faces Increase in Flood Insurance Rates**

More than 20,000 Virginia homeowners and businesses could see their rates for flood insurance rise up to 25 percent as part of an attempt to put the troubled National Flood Insurance Program back on sound financial footing, potentially socking many across the country with premium increases they can't afford, according to an analysis of federal data by The Associated Press.

[http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/state-regional/in-va-k-plus-face-flood-insurance-rate-hikes/article\\_763c63f7-6780-5652-a43e-3b47d8761b6a.html](http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/state-regional/in-va-k-plus-face-flood-insurance-rate-hikes/article_763c63f7-6780-5652-a43e-3b47d8761b6a.html)

### **Bill to Improve Public Alerts and Warnings Approved**

The House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications has approved the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2013 to improve public alerts and warnings during an emergency and modernize the Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System (IPAWS).

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr3283>

<http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/house-hs-subcommittee-approves-bill-to-improve-public-alerts-and-warnings/0fef3cebfe4d923311ab44348593117a.html>

## **FLU**

### **Johns Hopkins Suite of Disaster Planning and Flu Forecasting Apps**

The National Center for the Study of Preparedness and Catastrophic Event Response (PACER) released three free applications to help hospitals, first responders and emergency planners prepare for disasters and influenza outbreaks. EMCAPS 2.0 is a tool that allows planners to estimate casualties in 11 types of disasters identified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Surge is a forecasting tool designed to help intensive care units, emergency departments and other areas of hospitals manage influxes of patients during unexpected disasters. Finally, FluCast is a program that assists hospital emergency departments and infectious disease experts with estimating the number of patients they might expect to see during a given week.

<http://www.pacercenter.org/toolkit/disaster-planning-apps-suite.aspx>

### **First Global Inventory of Flu Strains in Birds**

A group of international scientists have completed the first global inventory of flu strains in birds by reviewing more than 50 published studies and genetic data, providing new insight into the drivers of viral diversity and the emergence of disease that can ultimately impact human health and livelihoods. The research, published in the journal PLOS ONE and performed as part of the USAID PREDICT project, identified over 116 avian flu strains in wild birds. This is roughly twice the number that were found in domestic birds, and more than ten times the number found in humans. Additionally, an analysis of studies that sampled more than 5,000 birds suggested some regions may have more viral diversity than others.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/273733.php>

### **WHO Sees Seasonal Flu Declines in North America, China**

Flu activity in the Northern Hemisphere showed some signs of decline, especially in North America, but patterns varied in the European region, with some northern and eastern countries showing increasing trends, the WHO said March 11 in a global seasonal flu update. Reports from influenza labs suggest that influenza B detections in North America have slightly increased, while both influenza A strains are circulating in Europe, with the 2009 H1N1 virus somewhat more common. Seasonal flu also varied in other parts of the world, such as eastern Asia. China saw an overall decline in seasonal flu activity, at a time when H7N9 influenza cases have noticeably dropped off. Hong Kong, Mongolia, and South Korea, however, continued to report elevated flu activity. Another flu hot spot is Egypt, where the number of 2009 H1N1 illnesses was high, the WHO said.

[http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance\\_monitoring/updates/latest\\_update\\_GIP\\_surveillance/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance/en/)

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## Canadian Study: Vaccine Cut Risk of Flu-related Hospitalization 59 Percent

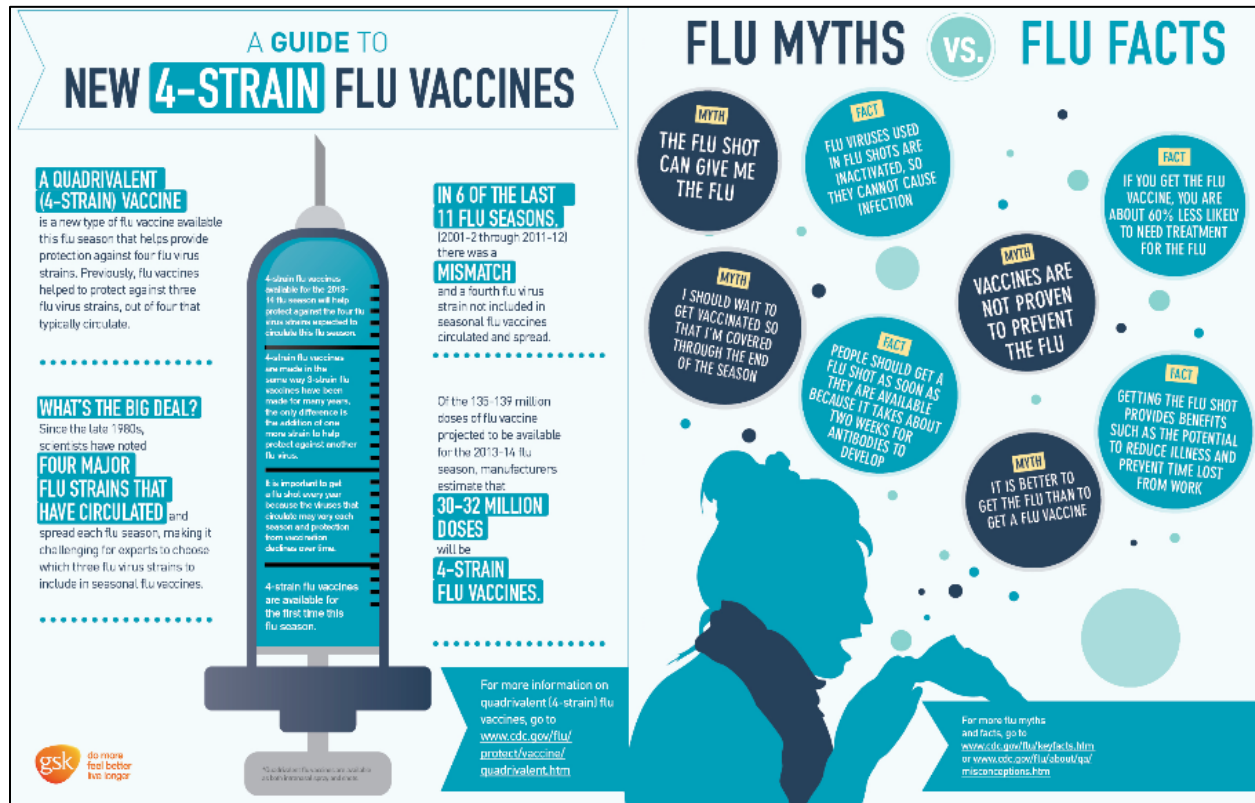
Using data from hospitals across Canada, researchers have produced a preliminary estimate that this year's influenza vaccine reduced Canadians' risk of flu-related hospitalization by about 59 percent. The authors also found that about two thirds of severe flu illnesses in adults involved people younger than 65, supporting previous indications that this season has been hard on younger adults. The 2009 H1N1 (pH1N1) virus has been overwhelmingly dominant in Canada and the United States this year, the first time this has happened since the 2009 pandemic.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/03/canadian-study-vaccine-cut-risk-flu-related-hospitalization-59>

## Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

Be sure to visit the county's flu Web page for information and news on flu and flu preparedness.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu>



<http://dailyinfographic.com/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-flu-infographic/flu-2>

## Flaws in “Big Data” as Google Flu Tracker Overestimated Cases

An attempt to identify flu outbreaks by tracking people's Google searches about the illness hasn't lived up to its initial promise, a new paper argues. Google Flu Trends, an attempt to track flu outbreaks based on search terms, dramatically overestimated the number of flu cases in the 2012-2013 season, and the latest data do not look promising, says David Lazer, a computer scientist and political scientist at Northeastern University. “There's a huge amount of potential there, but there's also a lot of potential to make mistakes,” Lazer said.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/google-flu-tracker-overestimated-cases-study-argues-pointing-to-flaws-in-big-data/2014/03/17/995c6656-adba-11e3-9627-c65021d6d572\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/google-flu-tracker-overestimated-cases-study-argues-pointing-to-flaws-in-big-data/2014/03/17/995c6656-adba-11e3-9627-c65021d6d572_story.html)

## Study Fingers Chickens, Quail, in Spread of H7N9 Influenza Virus

Among the copious species of poultry in China, quail and chickens are the likely sources of infection of H7N9 influenza virus to humans, according to a paper published ahead of print in the Journal of Virology. “Knowing the likely poultry species lets us target our interventions better to prevent human infections,” says corresponding author David Suarez, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The H7N9 avian influenza virus was first reported in humans

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in March 2013 in China. Since then over 375 human cases have been confirmed and over 100 have died. Only 1 case has been reported outside of China: A woman from Guangdong Province who was traveling in Malaysia and is presumed to have contracted the virus in China. According to the World Health Organization, most known human infections have resulted from direct or indirect contact with poultry.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/274241.php>

## TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

### **Preparedness Summit**

April 1-4; Atlanta, Ga.

The Preparedness Summit is the premier national conference in the field of public health preparedness. The four-day annual event provides one of the only cross-disciplinary learning opportunities in the field and has evolved over time to meet the growing needs of the preparedness community. A diverse range of attendees includes professionals working in all levels of government (local, state, and federal), emergency management, volunteer organizations, and healthcare coalitions. The Summit delivers opportunities to connect with colleagues, share new research, and learn how to implement model practices that enhance capabilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies.

<http://preparednesssummit.org/>

### **Joint Conference -- Virginia Wing and the National Capital Wing of the Civil Air Patrol**

April 5; Dulles, Va.

The Virginia Wing and the National Capital Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) will be hosting a joint, annual conference for members on Saturday, April 5. The venue will be the Dulles Marriott Hotel at Dulles Airport. The conference will bring together CAP members from some 30 CAP squadrons throughout Virginia and the National Capital Region, including four based in Fairfax and Prince William Counties. This is the first joint conference in years and the first conference in Northern Virginia in a decade. In addition to CAP personnel from the two wings, the commander and staff from the Middle East Region HQ will also be in attendance as will the wing commanders from several other states along the east coast. The conference immediately follows the quarterly meeting of our National Board of Governors. Starting at 10:45 a.m. Saturday morning, a number of workshops will be offered. Most are fairly CAP specific, but they include presentations on aerial imagery from the National Geospatial Agency and aircraft crashes from the National Transportation Safety Board. We also have workshops on emergency preparedness, public affairs, radio communications, youth programs and CERT. These will run from the 10:45 a.m. until around 4 p.m. If you would like to learn more about the Civil Air Patrol, visit [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com). For further details on the VA Wing, see [www.govirginiawingcap.com](http://www.govirginiawingcap.com).

### **2014 Food Safety Summit**

April 8-10; Baltimore, Md.

The Food Safety Summit is a solutions-based conference and expo designed to meet the educational and information needs of the entire food industry. The summit attracts industry professionals to learn from expert speakers and trainers, exchange ideas, find solutions to your current job challenges, and engage in the valuable opportunities the summit has to offer.

<http://www.foodsafetysummit.com/>

### **2014 Mid-Atlantic Waterways Conference**

April 8-10; Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, Portsmouth, Va.

This important event brings together key leaders from the United States Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and the most active and influential maritime industry leaders in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Port authorities, operators of cargo vessels in international and coastwise trades, shippers, shipyards and ship repair facilities, state and local regulators, passenger vessel operators, tug, towboat and barge operators, marine suppliers and key government officials will all attend and contribute to an examination of the

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most pressing issues and trends facing all maritime industry players in the Mid-Atlantic Region.  
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=cb9bx7kab&oeidk=a07e86jqns32ed393ee>

### **National Hurricane Conference**

April 14-17; Orlando, Fla.

The primary goal of the National Hurricane Conference is to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in order to save lives and property in the United States and the tropical islands of the Caribbean and Pacific. In addition, the conference serves as a national forum for federal, state and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve.

<http://hurricanemeeting.com/>

### **IMPACT 2014**

April 28-30; Westfields Marriott, Chantilly, Va.

NSI's annual IMPACT conference is essential for government and contractor security directors and managers responsible for protecting classified and sensitive information assets from a growing array of threats posed by espionage, terrorism, computer crime and information warfare.

<http://www.nsi.org/impact-2014.html>

### **The U.S. Cyber Crime Conference 2014**

April 29-May 2; Leesburg, Va.

This event provides both hands-on digital forensics training and an interactive forum for cyber professionals to network. The conference covers the full spectrum of topics facing defenders as well as law enforcement responders. All aspects of computer crime will be covered, including intrusion investigations, cyber crime law, digital forensics, information assurance, along with research and development, and testing of digital forensic tools.

<http://www.usacybercrime.com/Home>

### **Fire-Rescue Med (FRM) 2014**

April 30-May 3; Arlington, Va.

Fire-Rescue Med (FRM) has moved to Arlington. Come to the national capital region as FRM takes the attendee experience to the next level. Look for exciting new format changes including focused education tracks, new general session formats, new presenters and expo hall events that combine learning and networking.

<http://www.iafc.org/frm>

### **Philadelphia Emergency Management Summit 2014**

May 1; Philadelphia, Pa.

A rallying point for the entire community of first responders, these regional events gather the leaders in emergency management, public safety and homeland security and provide a forum to share best practices, renew relationships and work on new solutions for both the problems that are anticipated – and those that aren't. Whether emergencies are storm-related, man-made or just the day-to-day challenges in large urban and suburban areas, government organizations are expected to have the answers. Emergency Management Summits bring together the whole community of public and private-sector leaders to help predict, mitigate and better handle crisis situations in order to save lives and property. Emergency Management Summits bring together the whole community of public and private-sector leaders to help predict, mitigate and better handle crisis situations in order to save lives and property.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/events/Philadelphia-Emergency-Management-Summit.html>

### **SPIE Defense + Security 2014**

May 5-May 9; Baltimore, Md.

This long-standing symposium includes conferences and courses on infrared systems, lidar and radar, laser technology, image processing, data analysis, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance systems (ISR), display technologies, unmanned systems and robots, CBRNE, cyber sensing and security, biometric technology, law enforcement, energy harvesting, etc.

<http://spie.org/x94874.xml>



**CPM 2014 Conference & Expo**

May 12-14; Washington, D.C.

CPM East is the premier event for COOP/DR/BC and emergency response professionals looking for proven strategies and cost effective technology to achieve your mission of preparing and planning for emergencies and disruptions of operations including response and recovery.

<http://contingencyplanning.com/events/cpm-2014/home.aspx>

**GovSec 2014-Government Security Conference and Expo**

May 12-May 14; Washington, D.C.

GovSec is the nation's premier event for Government, Homeland Security, and Law Enforcement professionals looking for proven strategies and cost effective technology so they can achieve their mission of protecting our critical infrastructures, key assets, communities and the nation. This year's conference tracks include: Counter & Anti-Terrorism, Critical Infrastructure & Secured Cities, Cybercrime & Cyberterrorism, Campus Security & Life Safety, and Law Enforcement Strategies & Tactics.

<http://govsecinfo.com/events/govsec-2014/home.aspx>

**FOSE 2014**

May 13-15; Washington, D.C.

FOSE is the nation's premier event for government technology professionals seeking tools and best practices to equip their agency for the 21st century. From policy updates - straight from the hill - to exclusive insights from today's leading authorities, as well as the most comprehensive showcase of technology in action.

<http://fose.com/Events/Government-Technology/Home.aspx>

**2014 National Homeland Security Conference**

May 19-22; Philadelphia, Penn.

The National Homeland Security Association sponsors the National Homeland Security Conference, which is the annual meeting of local homeland security and emergency management professionals from the nations' largest metropolitan areas. This conference focuses on all emergency response disciplines at all levels of government.

<http://nationaluasi.com/dru/>

**International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference & Expo 2014**

May 29-June 1; Baltimore, Md.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Hazmat Conference provides the latest classroom, hands-on, and field trip-based training covering all aspects of hazmat - specifically including such topics as transportation, safety, weapons of mass destruction, protective gear and equipment, terrorism, mass decontamination, bioterrorism, etc.

<http://www.iafc.org/hazmat>

**National Capital Region Homeland Security Events**

[http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events\\_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE\\_ID=134](http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=134)

**Virginia Emergency Management Courses**

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

**FEMA Independent Study Courses**

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

**American Red Cross Disaster Services Training**

[http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster\\_registration.php](http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php)

## LINKS

### Fairfax County Web Resources

- Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog)
- Fairfax County Emergency Information Web page - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/)
- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/)
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>

### Additional Web Resources

- Capital Region Updates - [www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov](http://www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov)
- Virginia Citizen Corps - [www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm](http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm)

### DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate has a free newsletter, "S&T Snapshots," featuring stories about current research projects and opportunities with laboratories, universities, government agencies, and the private sector. The newsletter is produced monthly by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate in partnership with the Homeland Security Institute, a Studies and Analysis Federally Funded Research and Development Center.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/snapshots/>

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title "DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report." This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-3421 or by e-mail at [NICCRports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCRports@dhs.gov). You can access the Daily OSIR at:

[http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial\\_0542.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm).

### Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm)

### Emergency Management Magazine

<http://www.govtech.com/em/toc.php>

### FEMA Private Sector

<http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/>

**FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771**  
**EMERGENCY**  
**INFORMATION LINE**

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Emergency Information: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency)

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In accordance with NIMS – the National Incident Management System – the Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan states that Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) is led by the Office of Public Affairs. This ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update is part of the county's outreach efforts for our business and nonprofit partners as a way to provide information about the county's ESF 15, Homeland Security and emergency management.

Please feel free to forward this ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update to other contacts you have inside or outside your organization. Should someone you know like to be added to our distribution list, have them send an e-mail to [jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov) and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve this update or other communications between Fairfax County and the business/nonprofit community, please contact Tony Castrilli, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at [anthony.castrilli@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:anthony.castrilli@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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